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27 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Research and Reports

THROUGH: Chief, Economic Research

THROUGH: Chief, Industrial Division

FROM: Chief, Manufacturing Sectors Branch

SUBJECT: Classification of Project 34.2473, Comparison of Consumer Goods Output in the US and the USSR.

1. Although it has been decided that the publication of project 34.2473 as an unclassified Agency project is not desirable at this time, no decision was made as to the proper classification for this report.

2. The report was prepared as the result of numerous requests for assistance in interpreting official Soviet statements concerning the output of consumer goods. The report is not intended to be an economic analysis of Soviet light industry. By defining more precisely the meaning of certain Soviet statistics, the report will facilitate the answering of questions about the output of Soviet consumer goods and the comparison of this output with that of the US. It is our experience first, that there is much interest in this subject and second, that the Soviet data have been frequently misunderstood.

3. Project 34.2473 is based entirely upon unclassified and Official Use Only sources. The report does not reveal covert or sensitive overt intelligence sources and the methodology does not warrant giving the report a security classification. It is therefore recommended that the report be designated "For Official Use Only" in order to facilitate its dissemination to components of the US government who do not have access to classified materials.

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